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ABSTRACT

A PROGRESS REPORT REVIEWS THE MILWAUKEE SCHOOL BOARD'S CONTINUOUS PROGRAM OF ACQUIRING SITES AND BUILDING SCHOOLS. AN ITEMIZED LISTING OF 140 COMPLETED CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IS SUPPLEMENTED WITH PERTINENT FACTS AND FIGURES, INCLUDING--(1) GROWTH FACTORS AFFECTING SCHOOL BUILDING NEEDS, (2) RESULTANT INCREASES IN THE PHYSICAL PLANT, STAFF AND BUDGET, (3) RESEARCH ACTIVITIES OF THE STAFF AND THE BOARD, (4) THE ROLES OF THE CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR DIVISIONS, AND (5) THE PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL MODERNIZATION. BASIC POLICIES RELATING TO SITE SELECTION, SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION, AND DISTRICTING ARE DISCUSSED. A SECTION DEALING WITH THE FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF THE BUILDING PROGRAM SUMMARIZES FOUR SCHOOL BOND REFERENDUM ELECTIONS AND DISCLOSES THE REVENUES RECEIVED ANNUALLY THROUGH THE CONSTRUCTION FUND LEVY. (FS)

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FIFTEEN FINE YEARS

OF SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

1950-1965

EF 002 735

Milwaukee Public Schools

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FOREWORD

This progress report covers the post-World War II period of the School Board's continuous program of acquiring sites and building schools. It reviews the work done during the "fifteen fine years" between 1950 and 1965. In effect, this document is a record of some of Milwaukee's greatest achievements during a time that was marked by (a) unprecedented growth in city area and population, and (b) tremendous increases in municipal services and facilities of all kinds.

For the readers' information, the itemized listing of 140 completed construction projects is supplemented with other pertinent facts and figures. These include data about: growth factors affecting school building needs; resultant increases in the physical plant, staff, and budget; research activities of the staff and the Board; the roles of the Construction and the Repair Divisions; the program of school modernization; and other pertinent matters. Attention is also given to basic policies relating to site selection, school construction, and districting.

Important, too, is the section dealing with the financial aspects of the building program. It summarizes, very briefly, the four School Bond Referendum Elections held in 1951, 1954, 1957, and 1962, and shows the revenues received annually through the Construction Fund levy.

It is hoped that this report will give a comprehensive picture of what has been done in all parts of the city to provide adequate educational facilities and to offer opportunities for full-time schooling to every pupil. We trust that this publication will prove to be helpful and heartening to the Board and, particularly, to the generous citizens of our community who have made this "success story" possible through their support.

Harold S. Vincent
Superintendent of Schools

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FIFTEEN FINE YEARS

OF SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS, 1950-1965

I — Reasons for Schoolhousing Needs

Introduction

The period between 1950 and 1965 was a challenging time of record-breaking growth and development in the City of Milwaukee and its public school system. The city's land area doubled and the general population increased steadily from year to year. These two basic factors created many problems for the several units of government concerned.

In addition, Milwaukee's child population increased at a higher rate than the general population, due to rising birth rates and numbers of babies born each year. This factor combined with others to create serious schoolhousing needs. To provide educational facilities for children in areas where they live, the Board of School Directors geared its continuing, long-range program of school construction to keep pace with changes and developments in both the newer and the older sections of the city. The Board has completed 140 major projects in the past decade and a half; others are under construction and still more are already in the planning stage.

As reported in the "Five-Year School Building and Future Sites Program, 1966-1970," the Milwaukee Public Schools will need more new schools, classroom additions, and building modernizations in the years immediately ahead. But that is another story. The present report is a record of progress to date.

Growth Factors

The following statistics indicate the principal reasons for Milwaukee's schoolhousing needs:

1. An Expanding City -- Through annexation and consolidation, Milwaukee grew from 47.95 to 95.78 square miles between 1950 and 1964. This area increase of 47.83 square miles represents a gain of nearly 100 per cent. (See Map #1, in Appendix D.)

CITY AREA IN SQUARE MILES

1950 -- 47.95	1955 -- 67.59	1960 -- 91.10
1951 -- 49.75	1956 -- 72.16	1961 -- 96.50
1952 -- 50.67	1957 -- 91.75	1962 -- 95.75
1953 -- 52.47	1958 -- 91.75	1963 -- 95.78
1954 -- 54.98	1959 -- 91.75	1964 -- 95.78

2. Increasing Population -- Milwaukee's total population climbed from 637,392 in 1950 to an estimated 761,000 in 1964. This was an over-all increase of 123,608, or 19.4 per cent.

TOTAL POPULATION OF CITY

1950 -- 637,392*	1955 -- 681,000	1960 -- 741,324*
1951 -- 642,000	1956 -- 699,000	1961 -- 747,000
1952 -- 646,000	1957 -- 714,000	1962 -- 752,000
1953 -- 650,000	1958 -- 725,000	1963 -- 758,000
1954 -- 672,000	1959 -- 736,000	1964 -- 761,000

(* Final U.S. Census figures; others are Milwaukee Health Department estimates.)

TREND IN CITY POPULATION INCREASES BY AGE GROUPS

	0-19 yrs.	20-39 yrs.	40-59 yrs.	60 + yrs.
1950 CENSUS:	28.8%	32.1%	25.8%	13.3%
1960 CENSUS:	35.8%	27.0%	23.0%	14.2%

As indicated above, children and older persons constitute growing segments of Milwaukee's total population.

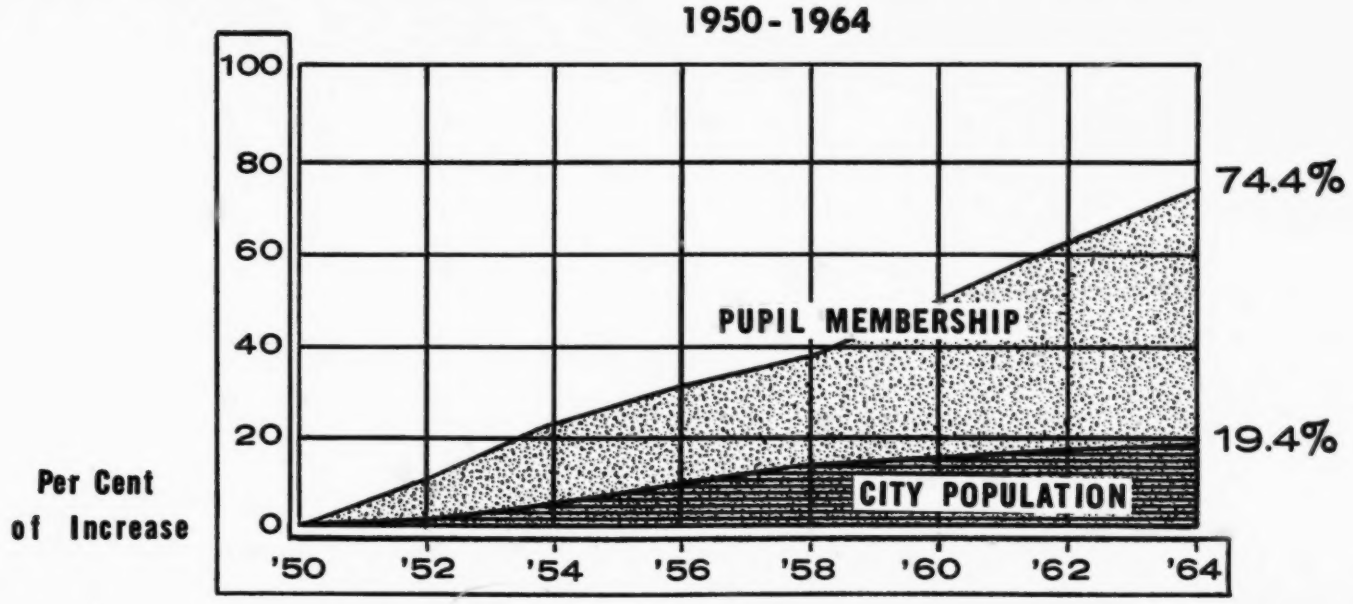
3. Mounting Enrollments -- The pupil population rose from 68,897 in 1950 to 120,343 in 1964. The addition of 51,446 pupils represents an enrollment gain of 74.4 per cent.

ENROLLMENTS OF THE MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

	K-6	7-8-9	10-11-12	Trade	Special	TOTAL
1950	38,920	14,444	14,073	507	953	68,897
1951	42,323	14,583	13,678	571	466	71,621
1952	46,457	15,112	13,635	562	624	76,390
1953	49,620	14,977	13,971	675	769	80,012
1954	53,967	15,449	14,491	680	880	85,467
1955	55,649	16,626	14,301	665	1,033	88,274
1956	56,337	17,714	14,581	522	1,124	90,278
1957	57,879	17,499	15,493	524	1,284	92,679
1958	59,545	17,169	16,555	537	1,561	95,367
1959	61,554	18,942	16,495	555	1,475	99,021
1960	64,130	20,874	17,083	---	1,619	103,706
1961	65,128	22,570	17,749	---	1,803	107,250
1962	67,064	22,242	20,128	---	2,382	112,016
1963	67,962	22,852	22,370	---	2,635	115,819
1964	70,396	23,605	23,629	---	2,713	120,343

City Population and Pupil Membership Increases

1950 - 1964



II — Planning and Implementing the Building Program

The planning and implementation of the Board's building program involves a number of persons and requires a variety of activities. Among the more important groups contributing directly to this total effort are the following five.

The Five-Year Building and Future Sites Commission

For nearly fifty years, Milwaukee's Board of School Directors has followed the policy of having before it at all times a long-term building program as a guide to an orderly development of its physical plant. This program has been subjected to systematic study, revision, and extension from time to time, usually at two- or three-year intervals. In each case, the program has been prepared by the Five-Year Building and Future Sites Commission appointed by the Superintendent and, then, submitted by him to the Board for approval and adoption.

The School Board has the responsibility for determining school districts and sites for the erection of schools in Milwaukee, under Chapter 38 of the Wisconsin Statutes. Since 1916, the Board has placed upon the Superintendent the duty to select a special "commission" to study the local school situation in order to formulate "Five-Year Building and Future Sites Programs." This Commission, which includes representatives of the planning departments of the City and County governments as well as of the School Board, works to promote coordinated community planning for schools and to effect long-range economies. It makes thorough studies of (a) needs for schools and sites, and (b) related financial requirements. It submits "Five-Year Programs" and interim reports, as needed, to the Superintendent and, through him, to the Board.

(The printed reports of the Five-Year Building and Future Sites Commission which apply to the 1950-1965 period were published in 1949, 1953, 1956, and 1960.)

The Department of School Housing Research

The Milwaukee Public Schools' Department of School Housing Research gathers the data required to determine needs for new or enlarged facilities and to locate desirable sites. Its three-man staff conducts continuing research on population, housing, school enrollments, and related matters.

To project school enrollments, the Department of School Housing Research makes studies of (a) general population trends, (b) annual birth totals, (c) the age of parents, (d) the mobility of families, and (e) enrollment trends in parochial and private schools.

In analyzing land use and physical developments within the city, the Department also carries on continuing studies of (a) residential, commercial, and industrial building activities, (b) urban renewal programs, and (c) the planning and development of parks, playgrounds, highways, expressways, public housing projects, and off-street parking lots.

The Building Committee of the Board

As the policy-making and governing body of the Milwaukee Public Schools, the Board of School Directors has the following responsibilities with respect to the school system's physical plant:

-- Determines the general policies relative to sites, buildings, other physical facilities, and equipment;

-- Provides an adequate physical plant;

-- Plans for present and future school building needs;

-- Decides what construction should be undertaken;

-- Selects and acquires school sites;

-- Employs school architects, as needed;

-- Approves educational requirements and building plans;

-- Awards contracts for construction of new buildings and additions to existing buildings;

-- Authorizes all major building alteration or renovation projects;

-- Determines maintenance policies;

-- Provides for the operation and care of the physical plant;

-- Passes upon the purchase and installation of equipment for buildings;

-- Adopts policies relative to the use of school property by outside agencies;

-- Recovers for damages to School Board property -- all with the counsel of the administration.

The Board's standing Committee on Buildings has general responsibility for all buildings and grounds. It has general charge of all building repairs, alterations, and improvements -- as well as the improvement of grounds -- and makes recommendations to the Board with respect to all major work of this nature. The Building Committee also has general charge of, and makes recommendations to the Board with respect to, the purchase, improvement, and development of sites; the erection of new buildings and additions to buildings; and major alterations and remodelings. No site is purchased or leased, nor is any building erected or materially altered or remodeled without a resolution duly passed by the Board.

The Building Committee also receives all bids -- along with the recommendations of the Secretary-Business Manager -- on contract services and the purchase of supplies, equipment, and materials chargeable to the Construction Fund or Repair Division budget appropriations, estimated to cost $2,000 or more for each item. This also applies to machinery estimated to cost $2,000 or more. The Building Committee then makes recommendations to the Board with respect to the award of contracts or the purchase of such items.

At the appropriate time each year, the Committee on Buildings also reports to the Committee on Finance its recommendations relative to the amount of money to be provided for the Construction Fund and for the Repair Division budget.

The Construction Division

The Construction Division, under its Chief of Division and Architect, plays a key role in the building program. It guides major projects through the various stages of planning and construction.

After educational administrators specify the instructional program requirements to be met, the Architect for the Construction Division provides the necessary measures for architectural services for proposed new schools, classroom additions, and modernization projects. Following the Board's approval of working drawings, the Construction Division proceeds to take bids, supervises each project, and is responsible for all administrative work in connection with contractors on the job.

This Division also improves and develops sites for schools.

The Repair Division

General care of School Board buildings and equipment involves the important tasks of repairing and improving facilities. The Repair Division, headed by the Director of Repairs, does routine preventive maintenance work in all schools. Like plant operation activities, the repair function contributes to the preservation of school properties and the resultant long-range economies.

The Repair Division supervises repair projects let under contract and performs some of the work required in the modernization program. Personnel of this Division also provide consultation and inspection services for certain phases of new construction.

III -- Report of Progress in School Construction

During the past fifteen years, the Board of School Directors has authorized 155 major projects. As of January 1, 1965, 140 have been completed, 7 are under construction, and 8 are in the planning stage. In addition, the Board has progressively acquired land for future buildings. These educational facilities and school sites represent community investments of over ninety million dollars.

Construction projects completed between 1950 and 1965 are listed in this section. While these projects are set forth in the chronological order of their particular date of occupancy, it is obvious that each project required many months of planning and building. In a massive and dynamic program like Milwaukee's, several different projects will be in varying stages of construction at any given time. The basic problem is to have adequate facilities ready when and where they are needed to serve children.

1950-51 School Year

New Elementary School	Date Occupied
Eighty-first Street	September, 1950

1951-52 School Year

Additions to Elementary Schools

Carleton (4 classrooms)	September, 1951
Manitoba (10 classrooms)	September, 1951
Thirty-fifth Street (2 classrooms)	September, 1951

Elementary Schools Reconditioned

Walnut Street	September, 1951
Ludington	February, 1952
Alexander Mitchell	April, 1952

Eighty-first Street School **2964 N. 81st St.**

(Second-floor addition completed in 1953.)

1952-53 School Year

New Elementary Schools	Date Occupied
Douglas Road	September, 1952
Fifty-third Street	September, 1952
Wilson Park	December, 1952

Additions to Elementary Schools

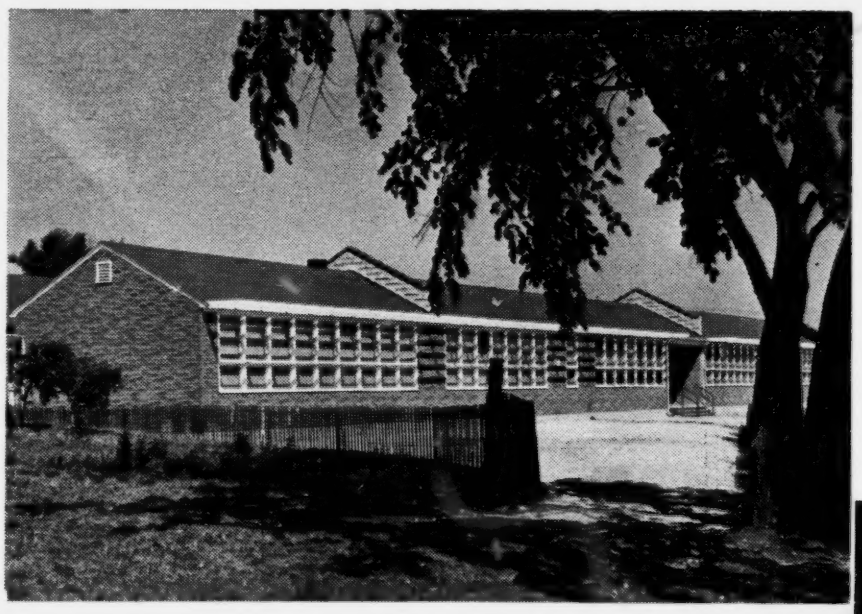
Maryland Avenue (Auditorium-gymnasium)	September, 1952
Thirty-first Street (Auditorium-gymnasium)	October, 1952
Hopkins Street (Auditorium-gymnasium)	February, 1953
Hampton (6 classrooms)	May, 1953

Addition to Senior High School

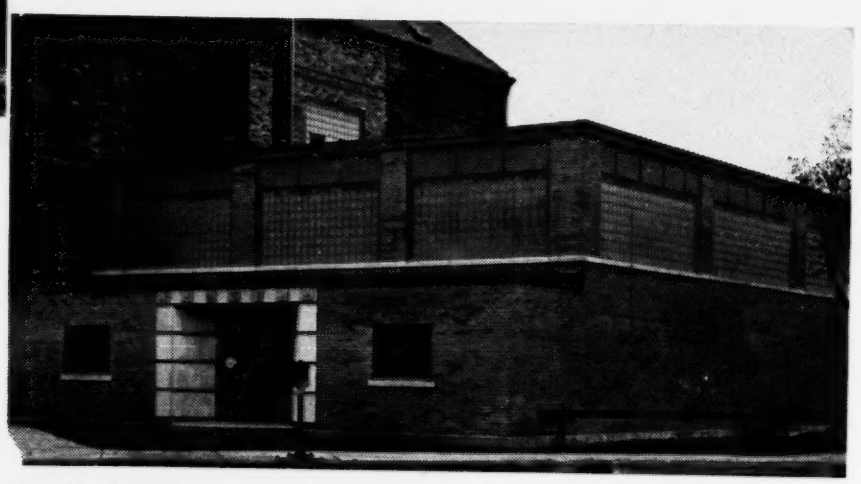
South Division (Team rooms)	September, 1952

Fifty-third Street School — 3618 N. 53rd St.

Douglas Road School — 3919 W. Douglas Rd.



Wilson Park School — 2525 W. Van Beck Ave.



Auditorium-Gymnasium Addition to Hopkins Street School — 1503 W. Hopkins St.

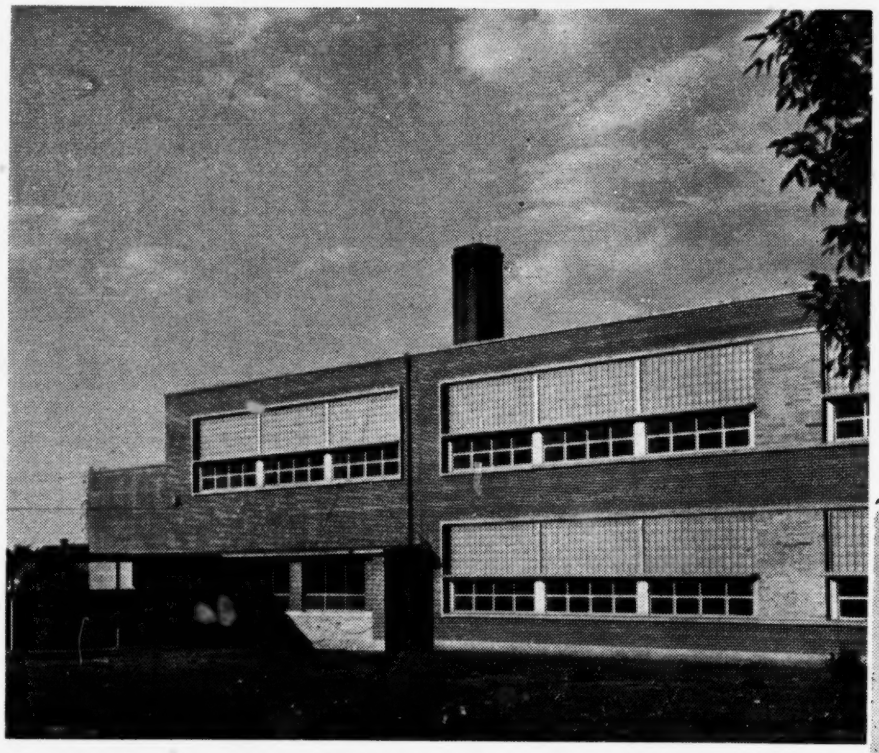
1953-54 School Year

New Elementary Schools	Date Occupied
Ninety-fifth Street	September, 1953
Sixty-sixth Street	September, 1953
Twenty-fourth Street	September, 1953
Clement Avenue	November, 1953

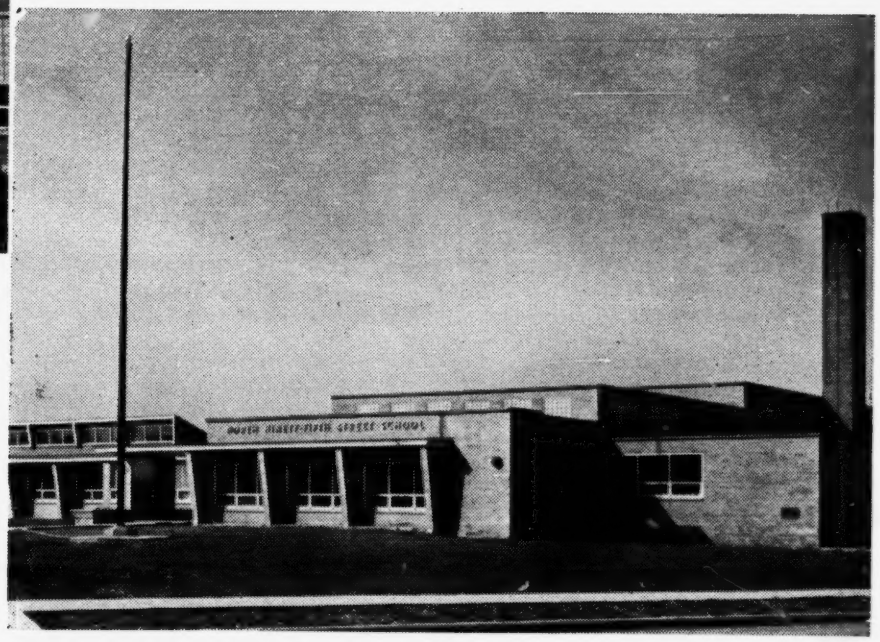
Additions to Elementary Schools

Eighty-first Street (7 classrooms)	September, 1953
Thirty-fifth Street (Auditorium-gymnasium)	February, 1954
Gen. Douglas MacArthur (2 classrooms)	February, 1954

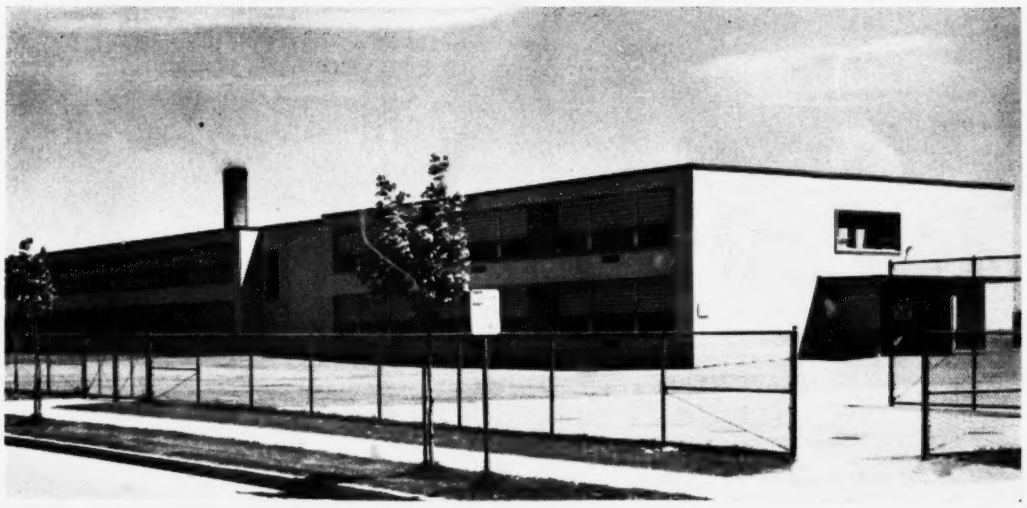
Clement Avenue School **3666 S. Clement Ave.**



Twenty-fourth Street School **4950 N. 24th St.**



Ninety-fifth Street School **3707 N. 94th St.**

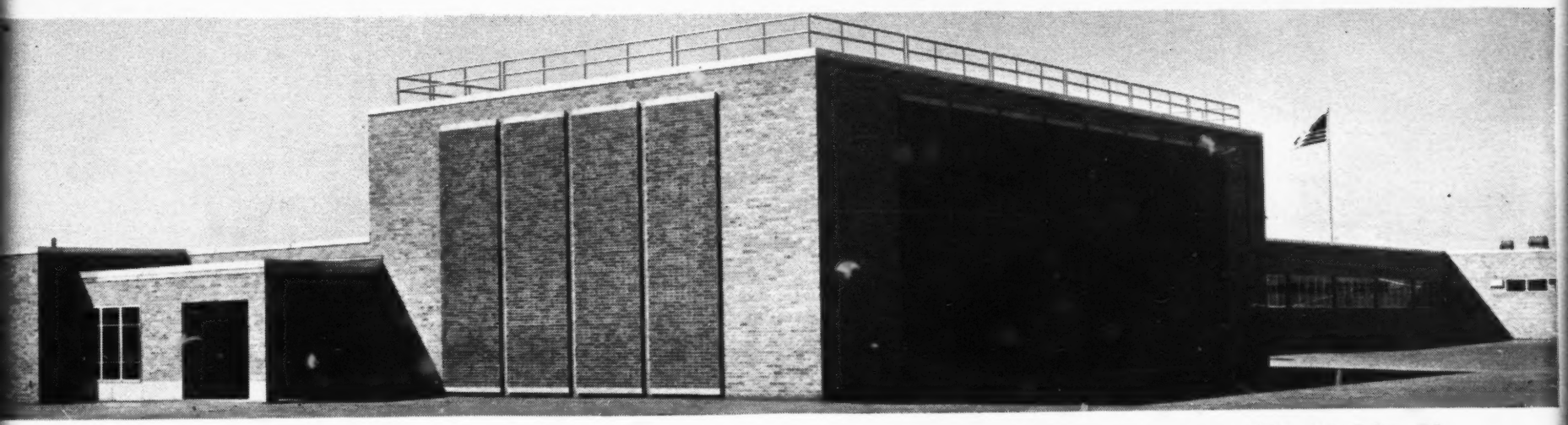


Sixty-sixth Street School **5760 N. 67th St.**

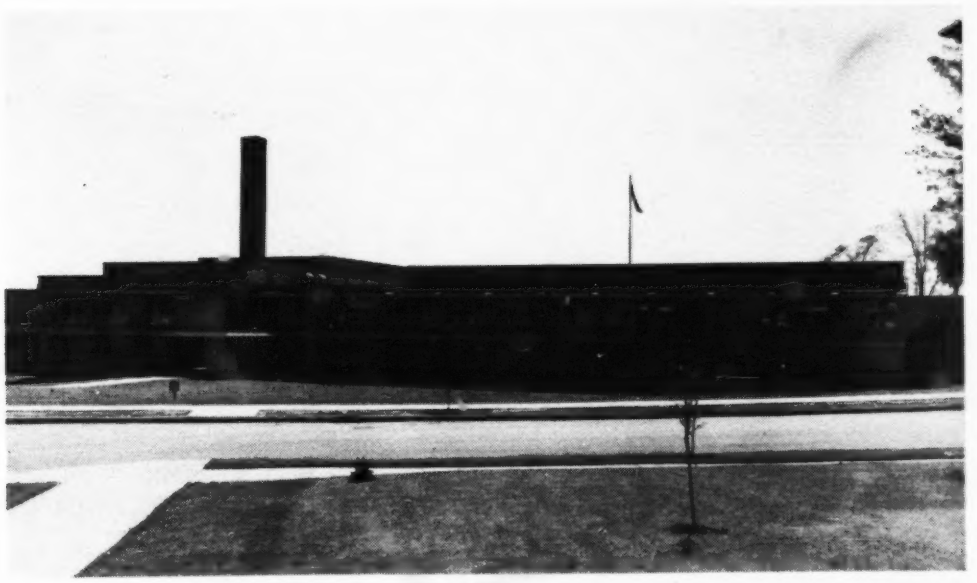
1954-55 School Year

New Elementary Schools	Date Occupied
Jeremiah Curtin	September, 1954
Fifty-fifth Street	September, 1954
Sixty-seventh Street	September, 1954
Additions to Elementary Schools	
Congress (2 classrooms)	September, 1954
Douglas Road (2 classrooms)	September, 1954
Ninety-fifth Street (6 classrooms)	September, 1954
Clement Avenue (6 classrooms)	February, 1955
Addition to Senior High School	
Washington (Physical Education)	September, 1954
Building Conversion	
Girls' Trade to Wells Street Junior	January, 1955

Fifty-fifth Street School **2765 S. 55th St.**



Sixty-seventh Street School **6701 W. Eden Pl.**



Jeremiah Curtin School **3450 S. 32nd St.**

1955-56 School Year

	Date Occupied
New Elementary Schools	
Fairview	September, 1955
Lancaster	September, 1955
Warnimont Avenue	September, 1955
Sixty-fifth Street	January, 1956
Eighty-second Street	February, 1956
New Senior High School	
Custer	September, 1955
Additions to Elementary Schools	
Jeremiah Curtin (5 classrooms finished)	September, 1955
Liberty (2 classrooms)	September, 1955
Wilson Park (2 classrooms)	September, 1955
Fairview (5 classrooms finished)	January, 1956
Ninth Street (6 classrooms)	January, 1956
Sixty-sixth Street (12 classrooms)	February, 1956
Additions to Senior High Schools	
Custer (8 classrooms finished)	September, 1955
Washington (2 Music rooms)	September, 1955
Elementary School Reconditioned	
State Street	September, 1955
Senior High School Athletic Fields	
North Division	September, 1955
Casimir Pulaski	September, 1955

Fairview School **6500 W. Kinnickinnic Pkwy.**

Warnimont Avenue School **3500 S. 1st Pl.**

Lancaster School **4931 N. 68th St.**

Sixty-fifth Street School

6600 W. Melvina St.

Eighty-second Street School

3778 N. 82nd St.

Custer High School

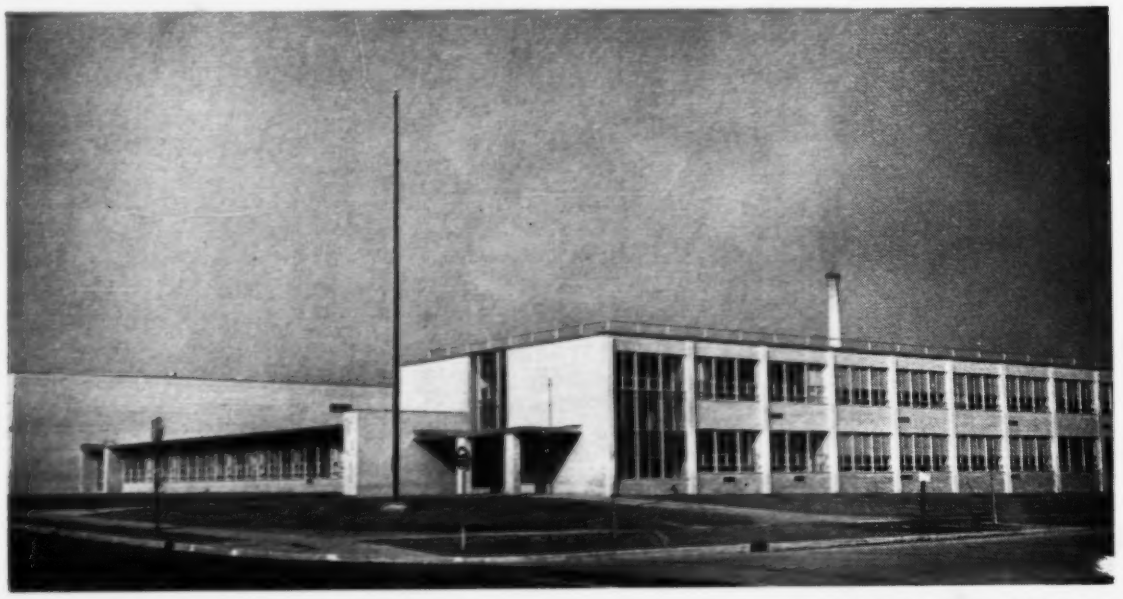
5075 N. Sherman Blvd.

Pulaski Athletic Field

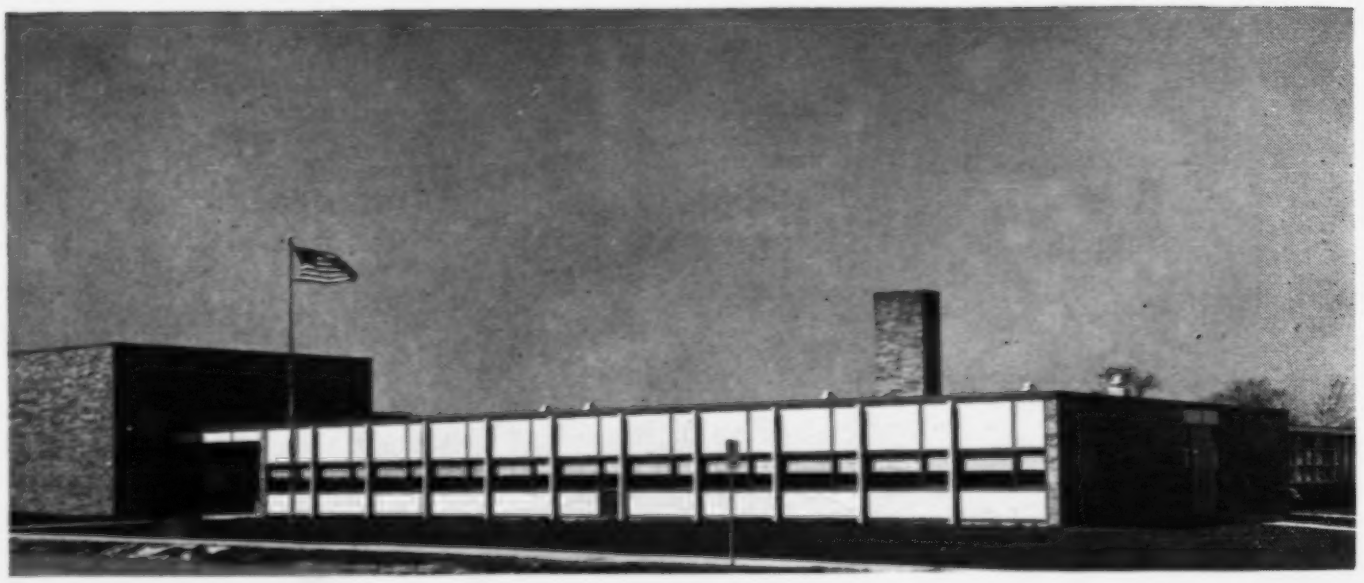
1956-57 School Year

New Elementary Schools	Date Occupied
Grantosa Drive	September, 1956
Seventy-eighth Street	January, 1957
Franklin Pierce (Replacement)	February, 1957

New Junior High School	
Wilbur Wright	September, 1956



Wilbur Wright Junior High School **8400 W. Burleigh St.**



Seventy-eighth Street School **3727 S. 78th St.**

Grantosa Drive School **4850 N. 82nd St.**

Franklin Pierce School **2765 N. Fratney St.**

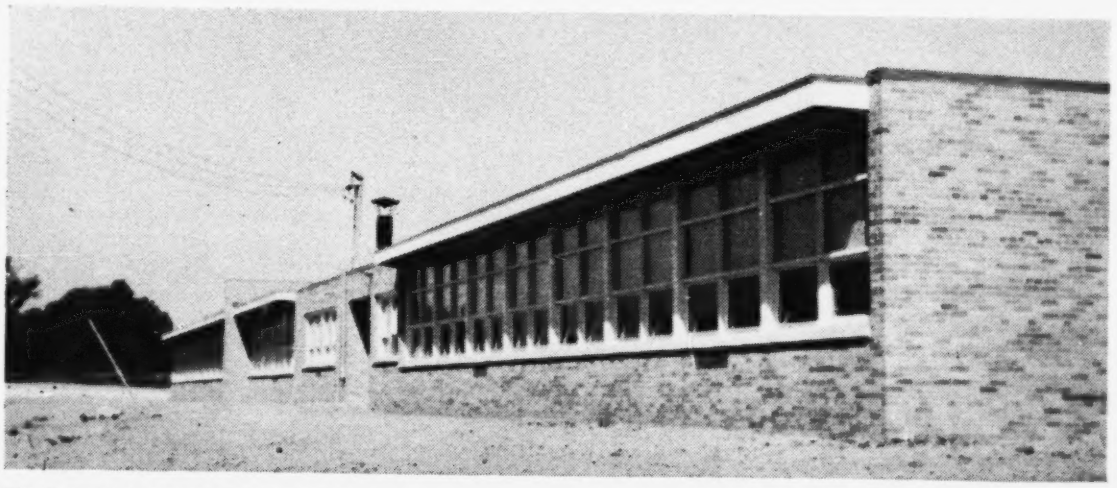
1957-58 School Year

New Elementary Schools	Date Occupied
Eighty-eighth Street	September, 1957
Henry L. Palmer. (Replacement)	January, 1958

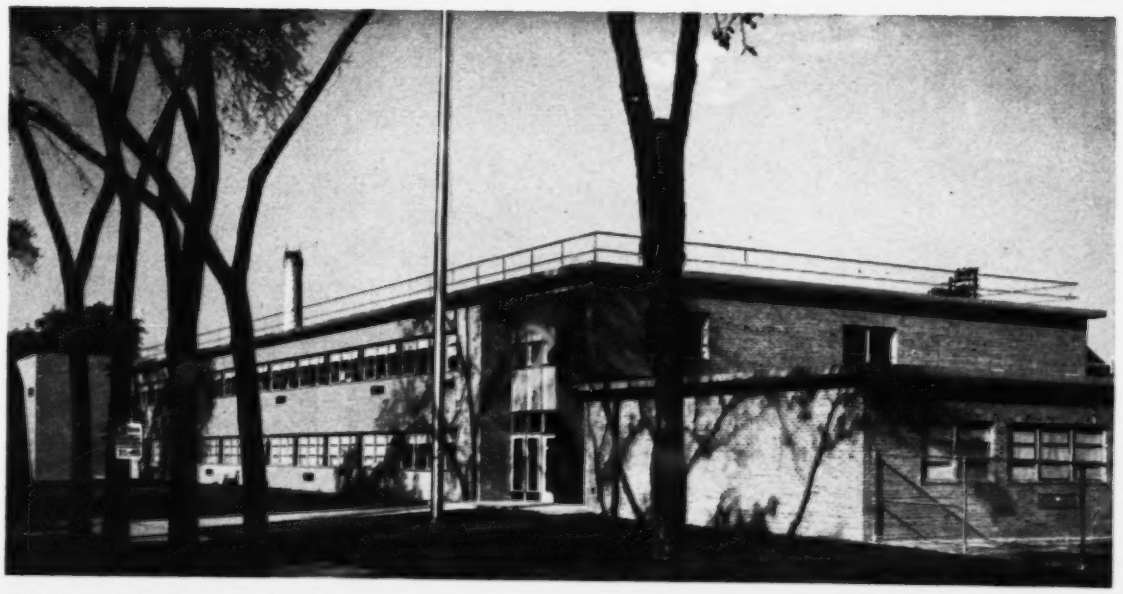
Additions to Elementary Schools	
Grantosa Drive (19 classrooms; auditorium-gymnasium)	September, 1957
Lancaster. (18 classrooms; auditorium-gymnasium)	September, 1957
Ninety-fifth Street. (4 classrooms)	September, 1957
Lee. (6 classrooms)	November, 1957
Lloyd Street (8 classrooms)	November, 1957
Siefert. (8 classrooms)	November, 1957
Sixty-fifth Street (12 classrooms; auditorium-gymnasium)	January, 1958

Addition to Senior High School	
Washington (Study hall - 7 classrooms)	September, 1957

Building Conversion	
Old Custer to Thomas Edison Junior High. (18 class areas added)	September, 1957



Eighty-eighth Street School **3575 S. 88th St.**



Henry L. Palmer School **1900 N. 1st St.**

1958-59 School Year

New Senior High School	Date Occupied
West Division. . . . . (Replacement)	September, 1958

Additions to Elementary Schools

Sixty-seventh Street . . . . . (17 classrooms; auditorium-gymnasium)	September, 1958
Robert M. LaFollette . . . . . (4 classrooms; auditorium-gymnasium)	February, 1959
William McKinley . . . . . (6 classrooms)	February, 1959
Brown Street . . . . . (6 classrooms)	February, 1959
Twelfth Street . . . . . (7 classrooms; auditorium-gymnasium)	March, 1959

Addition to Senior High School

Bay View . . . . . (Study hall - 7 classrooms)	September, 1958

Elementary School Modernization*

Mound Street	February, 1959

Building Conversion

Kosciuszko Junior Trade to Kosciuszko

Junior High . . . . . (7 additional class areas)	September, 1958

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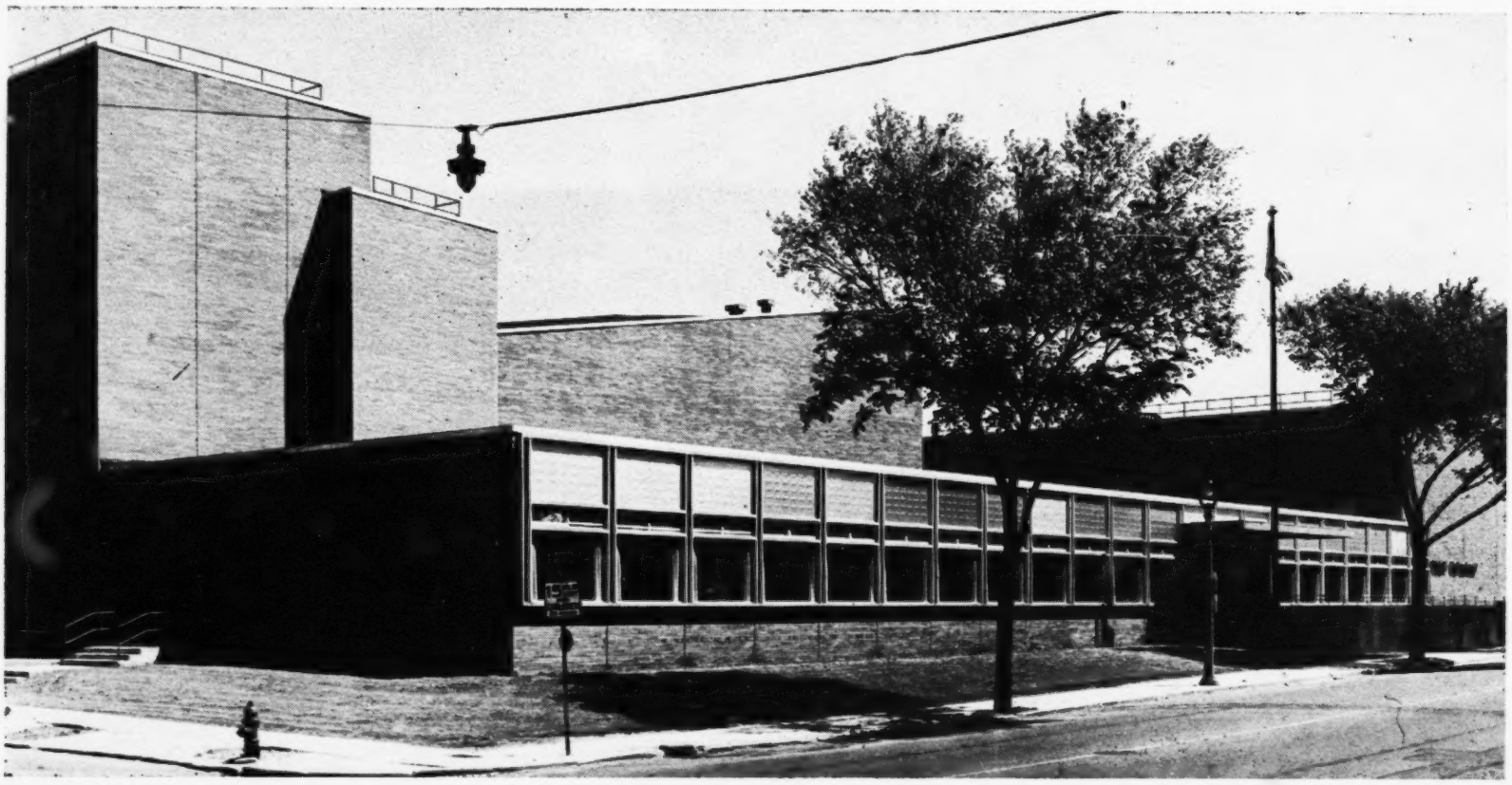
* See Appendix "C" for description of School Modernization Program.



West Division High School **2300 W. Highland Ave.**

1959-60 School Year

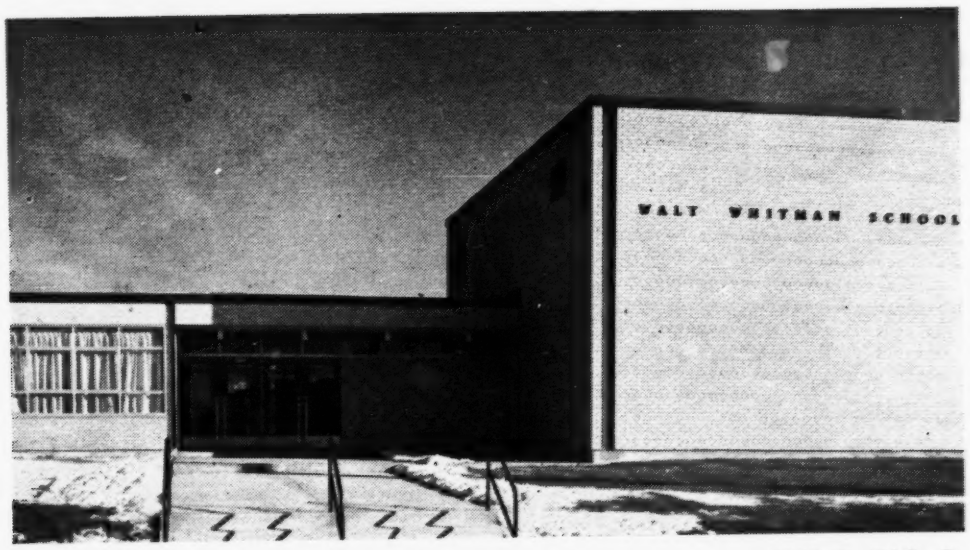
New Elementary Schools	Date Occupied
Samuel Clemens	September, 1959
Ralph Waldo Emerson	September, 1959
Washington Irving	September, 1959
Walt Whitman	September, 1959
John Greenleaf Whittier	September, 1959
Congress (Replacement)	February, 1960
Lowell	March, 1960

New Junior High Schools	
John Audubon	September, 1959
Alexander Graham Bell	September, 1959
John Muir	September, 1959

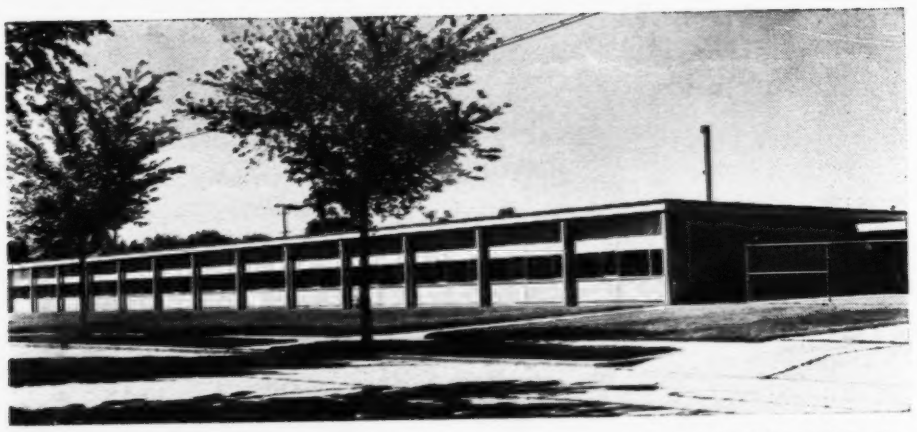
Additions to Elementary Schools	
Seventy-eighth Street (12 classrooms; auditorium-gymnasium)	September, 1959
Parkview (10 classrooms)	February, 1960
Fairview (8 classrooms)	March, 1960
Engleburg (8 classrooms)	May, 1960

Addition to Senior High School	
Boys' Trade and Technical (31 classrooms)	September, 1959

Elementary School Modernizations	
Fratney Street	September, 1959
Dover Street	April, 1960
Twelfth Street	June, 1960

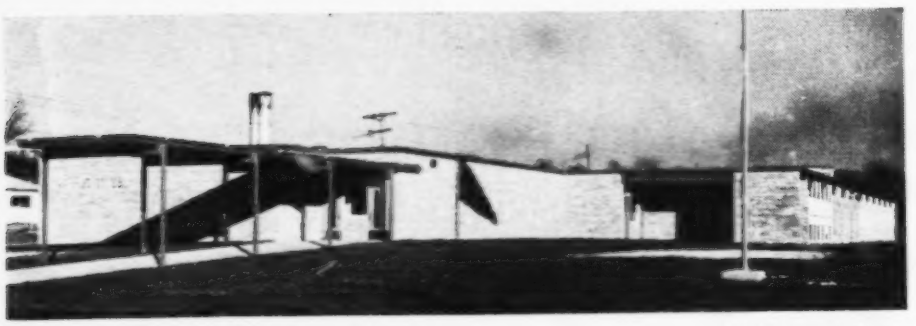


Walt Whitman School — **4200 S. 54th St.**



Samuel Clemens School — **4229 N. 36th St.**

Ralph Waldo Emerson School — **9025 W. Lawrence Ave.**

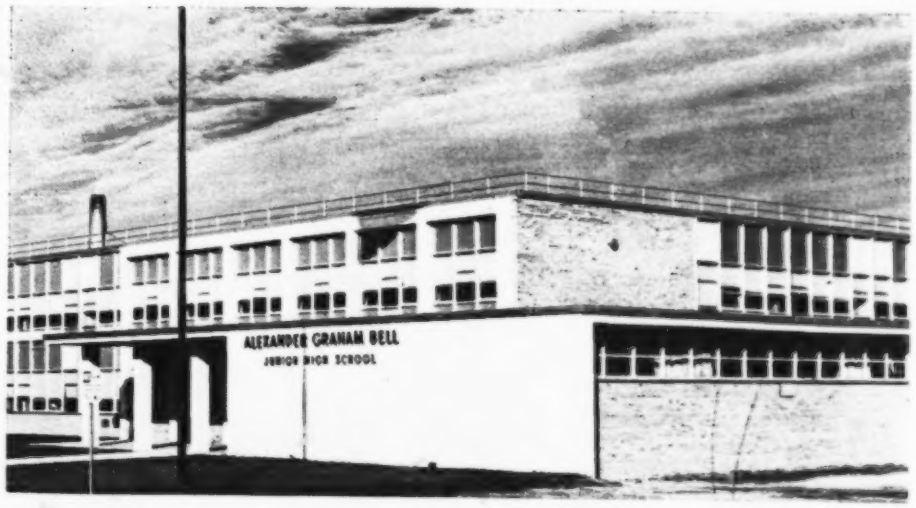


John Greenleaf Whittier School — **4382 S. 3rd St.**

Washington Irving School — **7900 W. Acacia Rd.**

Lowell School — **4360 S. 20th St.**

Congress School — **5225 W. Lincoln Creek Pkwy.**



Alexander Graham Bell Junior High School — **6506 W. Warnimont Ave.**

John Audubon Junior High School — **3300 S. 39th St.**

John Muir Junior High School — **5530 N. Prentiss St.**

Classroom Addition to Boys' Trade and Technical High School — **319 W. Virginia St.**

1960-61 School Year

New Elementary Schools	Date Occupied
Joyce Kilmer	September, 1960
Victory	January, 1961
New Junior High School	
Robert Fulton	January, 1961
New Administration Center	
School Board Administration Building	July, 1961
Additions to Elementary Schools	
Fifth Street (9 classrooms)	September, 1960
Twenty-first Street (8 classrooms)	September, 1960
Eighty-eighth Street (8 classrooms; auditorium-gymnasium)	October, 1960
Thirty-fifth Street (Auditorium conversion)	October, 1960
Twentieth Street (8 classrooms)	October, 1960
Elementary School Modernizations	
Henry W. Longfellow	October, 1960
Fifth Street	January, 1961
Alexander Mitchell	April, 1961
Albert E. Kagel	June, 1961

Joyce Kilmer School — **3120 W. Green Ave.**

Victory School — **2222 W. Henry Ave.**

School Administration Building — **3225 W. Vliet St.**

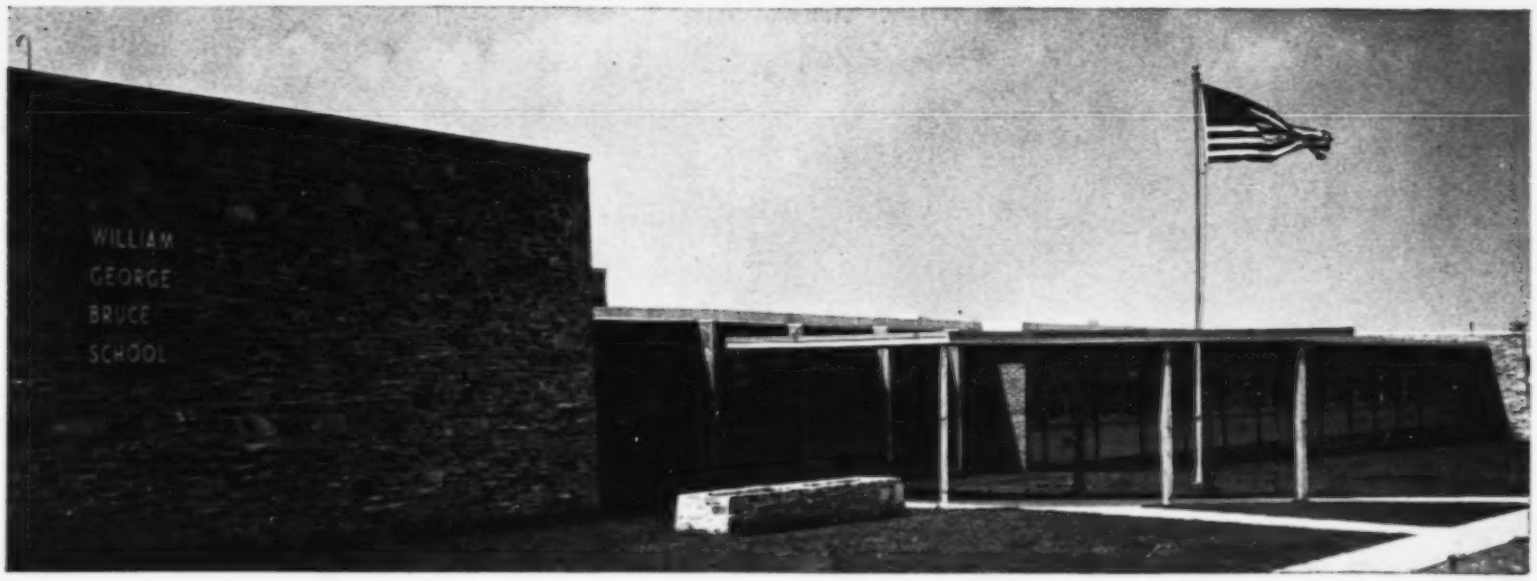
Robert Fulton Junior High School 2760 N. 1st St.

Addition to Twenty-first Street School 2130 W. Center St.

Addition to Twentieth Street School 2442 N. 20th St.

1961-62 School Year

	Date Occupied
New Elementary Schools	
William George Bruce	September, 1961
Byron Kilbourn	September, 1961
New Junior-Senior High School	
John Marshall	September, 1961
Additions to Elementary Schools	
Keefe Avenue (15 classrooms)	September, 1961
Twenty-seventh Street (12 classrooms)	September, 1961
Emanuel L. Philipp (Auditorium-gymnasium)	December, 1961
Elementary School Modernizations	
Auer Avenue	September, 1961
Robert M. LaFollette	September, 1961
Trowbridge Street	January, 1962
Bartlett Avenue	February, 1962
Maryland Avenue	March, 1962
Twentieth Street	April, 1962
Senior High School Athletic Fields	
Custer	September, 1961
West Division	September, 1961



William George Bruce School **6453 N. 89th St.**

John Marshall Junior-Senior High School **4141 N. 64th St.**

Byron Kilbourn School **5354 N. 68th St.**

1962-63 School Year

New Elementary Schools	Date Occupied
Clara Barton	September, 1962
William Cullen Bryant	September, 1962
Additions to Elementary Schools	
Joyce Kilmer (7 classrooms; auditorium-gymnasium)	September, 1962
Engleburg (7 classrooms; auditorium-gymnasium)	November, 1962
Washington Irving (12 classrooms)	January, 1963
Victory (12 classrooms; auditorium-gymnasium)	January, 1963
Elementary School Modernizations	
Lee	January, 1963
Thirty-seventh Street	January, 1963

William Cullen Bryant School — 8718 W. Thurston Ave.

Clara Barton School — 5700 W. Green Tree Rd.

1963-64 School Year

New Junior High Schools	Date Occupied
Gustav Fritsche	September, 1963
Samuel Morse	September, 1963

Additions to Elementary Schools

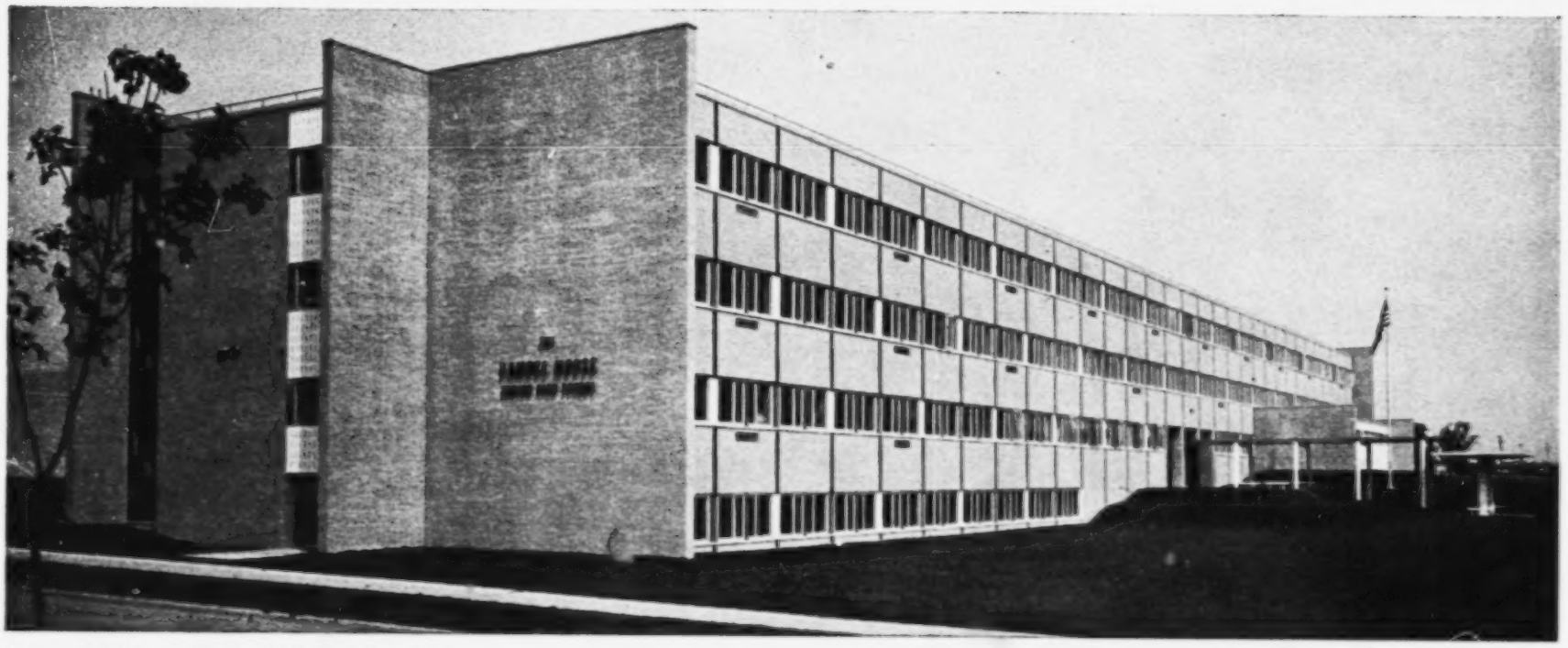
Garfield Avenue (8 classrooms)	September, 1963
Manitoba (Orthopedic unit)	September, 1963
Elm (12 classrooms)	January, 1964
Hopkins Street (16 classrooms)	January, 1964

Addition to Senior High School

Custer (8 additional classrooms)	January, 1964

Elementary School Modernizations

Garfield Avenue	September, 1963
William McKinley	September, 1963
Ninth Street	January, 1964
Twenty-seventh Street	January, 1964



Samuel Morse Junior High School — **4601 N. 84th St.**

Gustav A. Fritsche Junior High School — **2969 S. Howell Ave.**

Orthopedic Addition to Manitoba School — **4040 W. Forest Home Ave.**

1964-65 School Year

(as of January 1, 1965)

New Junior High School	Date Occupied
Christopher Latham Sholes	September, 1964

Elementary School Modernizations	
Hopkins Street	September, 1964
Lincoln Avenue	September, 1964
Thirty-sixth Street	September, 1964

Projects Under Construction, January 1, 1965

1. Alexander Hamilton Senior High School
2. James Madison Senior High School
3. Boys' Trade and Technical High School Addition
4. James Fenimore Cooper Elementary School
5. Nathaniel Hawthorne Elementary School
6. Seventy-eighth Street School Addition
7. Siefert Elementary School Modernization

Projects in the Planning Stage, January 1, 1965

1. John Burroughs Junior High School
2. Oliver Wendell Holmes Elementary School (Center Street Replacement)
3. Edward A. MacDowell Elementary School (Eighteenth Street Replacement)
4. South Ninety-sixth and West Morgan Elementary School
5. Hampton Elementary School Addition
6. Henry L. Palmer Elementary School Addition
7. Rutherford B. Hayes Elementary School Modernization
8. Elm Elementary School Modernization

Christopher Latham Sholes Junior High School **4965 S. 20th St.**

Alexander Hamilton Senior High School
6215 W. Warnimont Ave.

IV -- Financing the Building Program

To finance its huge building program over the past decade and a half, the Milwaukee School Board has had to depend upon two principal sources of revenue: (a) the Construction Fund levy and (b) school bond issues. The Construction Fund itself has provided a relatively small portion of the total monies needed to pay for sites, new schools, and expansion projects. The bulk of the financial resources used has come from four school bond issues that were approved by the city's voters in 1951, 1954, 1957, and 1962.

Yearly income from the statutory Construction Fund is shown below. Also given are certain basic facts about the four school bond issues and the referendum elections relating to them. A "Statement of School Bond Sales" follows. Finally, the cost of debt service for school bonds to the City of Milwaukee is summarized.

Construction Fund Revenues

Construction Fund revenues are raised through taxation of property. The School Board is empowered by State law to levy 0.6 of one mill, or 60¢ per $1,000 of assessed valuation, for school construction purposes. Over the past fifteen years, the annual yield of this tax has ranged from approximately $700,000 in 1950 to a little over $1,200,000 in 1964. Total income from this source has amounted to $14,768,979.

CITY TAX LEVIES FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION FUND

1950 — 696,451	1955 -- 897,416	1960 -- 1,147,864
1951 -- 728,421	1956 -- 924,884	1961 -- 1,174,572
1952 — 803,102	1957 -- 971,133	1962 -- 1,180,326
1953 — 850,474	1958 -- 1,033,997	1963 — 1,223,047
1954 — 861,463	1959 -- 1,045,507	1964 — 1,230,322
		Grand Total -- $14,768,979

School Bond Issues

Since 1950, the citizens of Milwaukee have authorized the issuance of $91,850,000 in school bonds, for the continuance of the Board's building program. The voters, in the final analysis, have been chiefly responsible for the school system's success in enlarging its physical plant where needed and in assuring for every pupil enrolled the opportunity to receive elementary and secondary education on a full-time basis. Consistent, widespread community support has enabled the Board to meet its obligations in this respect.

1. The 1951 Referendum Election. Because the city's area growth, rising birth totals, aging school plant, and lack of construction funds had combined to create a post-war schoolhousing crisis, the Board sought voter approval of a $9,850,000 bond issue. On April 3, 1951, the people of Milwaukee authorized sale of the needed bonds by a 2 to 1 vote. This made it possible for the Board to proceed with a greatly accelerated building program.

2. The 1954 Referendum Election. By fall of 1953, it was evident that the Five-Year Program set up in 1951 was inadequate even to carry the schools through 1954. This inadequacy again was the result of four factors: expansion of the city, continuing birth increases, further aging of schools, and greater dollar needs, complicated by rising construction costs. The voters of Milwaukee responded to this serious emergency by voting, on April 6, 1954, to approve the Board's requested $18,000,000 bond issue by a margin of almost 4 to 1.

3. The 1957 Referendum Election. The same factors--annexations, buildings, children, and dollars -- continued to create schoolhousing problems, and the Board found it necessary to accelerate further the post-war school construction program started in 1950. Again, the resources at hand proved insufficient to meet the needs. By a vote of 5 to 2, Milwaukeeans approved, on April 2, 1957, the issuance of $39,000,000 in bonds for school construction.

4. The 1962 Referendum Election. "More Children -- More Schools" was, in essence, the problem faced by the Board as child population increases and mounting enrollments continued to cause demands for more educational facilities in Milwaukee. To meet costs of proposed construction, the voters were asked, on April 3, 1962, to approve a bond authorization of $25,000,000. This election carried by a favorable vote of more than 2 to 1.

An accounting of the sales of school bonds from 1951 through 1965 appears on the next page.

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

STATEMENT OF SCHOOL BOND SALES

Year of Sale	1951 Referendum ($9,850,000)	1954 Referendum ($18,000,000)	1957 Referendum ($39,000,000)	1962 Referendum ($25,000,000)	Total
1951	$2,000,000				$ 2,000,000
1952	2,000,000				2,000,000
1953	2,000,000				2,000,000
1954	2,000,000	$ 5,000,000			7,000,000
1955	1,850,000	5,000,000			6,850,000
1956		3,300,000			3,300,000
1957		4,700,000	$ 5,500,000		10,200,000
1958			9,000,000		9,000,000
1959			11,000,000		11,000,000
1961			7,250,000		7,250,000
1963			6,250,000		6,250,000
1964				$ 9,700,000	9,700,000
1965 (Proposed Sale)				10,065,000	10,065,000
	$9,850,000	$18,000,000	$39,000,000	$[illegible],765,000	$86,615,000

Cost of Debt Service

During the years indicated, the amounts shown were carried in the budget of the City of Milwaukee for debt service of school bonds issued.

SCHOOL BONDS OUTSTANDING* AND COST OF DEBT SERVICE

Outstanding School Bonds June 30	Total	Per Cent of Equalized Value	Budgeted by City For Debt Service
1951	$ 99,000	0.0046	$ 89,816
1952	$ 2,021,000	0.08	$ 160,242
1953	$ 5,900,000	0.21	$ 402,050
1954	$ 7,400,000	0.26	$ 609,080
1955	$11,800,000	0.39	$1,046,347
1956	$17,800,000	0.54	$1,613,662
1957	$24,515,000	0.76	$2,371,786
1958	$28,330,000	0.82	$3,103,554
1959	$46,370,000	1.30	$3,786,723
1960	$43,410,000	1.19	$3,258,677
1961	$43,450,000	1.15	$4,190,736
1962	$44,435,000	1.15	$4,835,231
1963	$47,193,000	1.22	$4,490,225
1964	$53,400,000	1.36	$4,711,089

* Outstanding school bonds shall not exceed 2% of the total of all taxable property as equalized for state purposes. (Chapter 38.17)

SUMMARY STATEMENT

This chronicle of the School Board's progress in carrying out its long-range building program reports a truly remarkable story. As shown, the Board successfully met the challenges of the city's area growth and population gains between 1950 and 1965. Generous citizen support made it possible to provide the educational facilities needed to accommodate all pupils on a full-time basis. It is hoped that this record of accomplishment will serve as a source of satisfaction and pride for everyone who believes that Milwaukee is a great city in which to live and work.

Looking ahead, it is obvious that the city's healthy development will continue. We will need, therefore, to face the changes and advances that will come with renewed determination and vigor. Our work is not yet finished. The past is but a prologue to what we may expect in the future. The Board of School Directors, along with other governmental bodies, is preparing today for meeting tomorrow's needs through careful planning, budgeting, and programming for capital improvements. This is being done at the various levels of operation and in a coordinated manner.

The Milwaukee Public Schools are moving ahead on the construction, expansion, and modernization of schools, as funds permit and in accordance with the Board-approved master plan. This "blueprint" for future action is set forth in the Five-Year School Building and Future Sites Program, 1966-1970. Readers are invited to refer to this document and encouraged to study the many data it contains about increasing pupil enrollments, resultant schoolhousing needs, and related financial requirements. It is important that this be done, for the Board will soon be required to ask the people of Milwaukee to authorize additional funds for school construction purposes.

Growth of the Milwaukee Public Schools, 1950-1965

As the area of the school district has expanded and the pupil population has grown, the following increases have resulted over the past fifteen years.

ANNUAL TOTAL SCHOOL BUDGET

1950 — $18,641,190
1951 — 19,893,879
1952 — 23,233,950
1953 — 24,492,046
1954 — 26,954,116
1955 — 33,612,365
1956 — 32,311,252
1957 — 37,706,764
1958 — $49,754,182
1959 — 49,210,333
1960 — 52,280,484
1961 — 55,551,466
1962 — 57,722,160
1963 — 62,980,159
1964 — 68,331,930

NUMBER OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

1950 — 3,310
1951 — 3,368
1952 — 3,586
1953 — 3,702
1954 — 3,892
1955 — 4,188
1956 — 4,582
1957 — 4,806
1958 — 4,938
1959 — 5,120
1960 — 5,285
1961 — 5,688
1962 — 5,874
1963 — 6,056
1964 — 6,432

NUMBER OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS*

	Elem.	Junior Trade	Junior High	Trade & Tech. High	Six-Year High	Senior High	TOTAL
1950	77	4	4	2	4	7	98
1951	78	3	4	2	3	8	98
1952	80	2	4	2	3	8	99
1953	85	2	4	2	3	8	104
1954	89	1	4	2	3	8	107
1955	98	1	4	2	3	8	116
1956	103	1	6	1	2	9	122
1957	109	1	7	1	2	9	129
1958	109	—	8	1	2	9	129
1959	109	—	8	1	2	9	129
1960	114	—	11	1	2	9	137
1961	117	—	12	1	2	9	141
1962	117	—	12	1	3	9	142
1963	117	—	14	1	3	9	144
1964	120	—	15	1	3	9	148

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* Schools added through (a) construction, (b) replacement, (c) annexations and consolidations.

Schools lost through (a) abandonment, (b) replacement, (c) litigation in the courts.

Policies Relating to Site Acquisition, School Construction, and Districting

Board policies have governed the size, location, and types of schools; distances pupils must travel; sizes of sites; type of construction to be used; and many other matters. A number of these points are outlined in the following paragraphs; more detailed information is available in the various printed reports of the Five-Year Building and Future Sites Commission.

Site Selection and Acquisition

According to the Commission's 1949 Report (Page 31), "School sites should be chosen with several considerations in mind. Among them are:

1. Centrality of location with reference to the area to be served
2. Environment, including absence of objectionable surroundings and proximity of play areas or parks
3. Accessibility, as determined or affected by streets and highways, railroad crossings, streams and factory areas, etc.
4. Adequacy as to size, so that there may be sufficient room for play and recreational facilities, the proper placement of the building on the site, and landscaping
5. Projected developments and probable future population trends in the area
6. Topography and soil conditions
7. Cost."

The Commission's 1956 Report explains, (Page 114), "In choosing sites, the Administration and the Board have been governed chiefly by three considerations: (1) proper location, (2) suitability, and (3) cost. To do this, it has been necessary to follow a policy of acquiring school sites whenever possible well in advance of actual need. As the city has extended its boundaries in recent years and mass home construction has become the order of the day, the need for early acquisition of school sites has become more urgent than ever."

(Page 115) "Through the practice of early purchase, the Board of School Directors has saved the taxpayers many thousands of dollars. More than this, by choosing them early the Board has been able to secure highly desirable sites. Communities which delay purchase usually are forced to settle for 'left-over' parcels, which not only prove much more costly but are also far less desirable. Milwaukee's aim for many years has been to secure choice locations at reasonable prices. Sites have been chosen on the basis of recommendations of the Board's Five-Year Planning Commission."

(Page 117) "In spacing school sites, in general, efforts are made to locate elementary schools so that the maximum distance from neighboring schools will not exceed one mile, depending somewhat upon the type of residential development expected in the area. For junior high schools, a one and one-half mile distance from other junior high schools is considered desirable, and in the case of senior high schools, a distance of two miles."

School Construction

Factors affecting future school building needs are described in the Commission's 1953 Report (Page 12). Among these are: (1) the number of children who must be housed; (2) the home distribution of those children throughout the community; (3) the number at the various grade levels; (4) the educational program to be provided for them; and (5) the suitability of present school plants.

A fundamental planning principle is reiterated in the 1949 Report (Page 13). It reads, "This Commission in previous reports has pointed out that the educational policies adopted for any school system have a direct bearing upon the building program, and that school buildings are designed primarily to facilitate instruction. For these reasons, the educational program to be offered should receive first consideration as a preliminary to the planning of any school building."

Guided by this principle, specific educational policies relating to the school building program have been set forth. They are listed in the 1960 Report (Pages 18-21) as follows:

1. Continued conversion of the Milwaukee Public Schools to the 6-3-3 plan
2. Setting of priorities in construction on the basis of relative need
3. Designing of school buildings to allow for their flexible use
4. Spacing of buildings to allow reasonable access
5. Modernization of older but structurally sound buildings
6. Replacement or abandonment of certain buildings
7. Development of multi-purpose areas in older buildings
8. Installation of hot lunch facilities in all schools
9. Acquisition of school sites in advance of need
10. Acquisition of school sites of proper size
11. Provision for economies in planning and constructing buildings
12. Close cooperation within the schools and with other agencies of government.

School Districting

When new schools are built on previously selected sites, it becomes necessary to establish the boundaries of the neighborhood district to be served by the new school. It is evident, of course, that while circles are described to assist in locating a new school site, the actual boundaries of the new school district will not be circular in nature. The district lines will usually follow streets. In some instances, a district line will follow, in part, a river, a railroad, the lake shore, or the boundary of an adjacent municipality.

In drawing the new district boundary lines, consideration is given to many of the factors present in the selection of sites. These include:

1. Distance to be traveled by pupils attending the school
2. Capacity of school and numbers of pupils to be accommodated
3. Effective utilization of the school's facilities
4. Traffic routes and industrial districts
5. Topography of the area, including rivers, streams, bluffs, and other physical features of the land
6. Natural and man-made hazards to pupil safety.

Also involved is the accommodation of new districts with adjacent and already established districts.

The Board has consistently followed a plan that pays particular attention to the three essential elements of effective school districting -- the neighborhood area served, the pupils to be enrolled, and the available school facilities. It has also allowed for the increasing population shifts and civic improvements of recent years, and provided the flexibility needed in adjusting school district boundaries to avoid, insofar as possible, the overcrowding or underutilization of buildings.

Programs for Modernization of Older School Buildings, 1957-1965

The continuous building program of the Milwaukee Public Schools has many parts. Important among them are carefully planned programs of modernizing older, structurally sound schoolhouses. Complete modernization is adding years of efficient and economical use to the life of valuable educational facilities in the city. Such transformation is being accomplished at a fraction of the cost of a new structure of the same size. More important, it is helping to ensure equality of educational opportunity for children in all parts of the city.

In addition to the major projects of building modernization, a number of other plans for school improvements are also being implemented. These are reviewed in this section to give a more complete picture of what the Board of School Directors is doing to keep its physical plant up-to-date and in excellent condition.

School Building Modernizations

Early in 1957, the Building Facilities and Equipment Committee, composed of personnel from the staffs of the Superintendent and the Secretary-Business Manager, was formed to study problems involved in modernizing certain older buildings in the city. This committee addressed itself to a matter of concern that had been expressed by the Five-Year Building and Future Sites Commission in its reports of 1944, 1947, 1949, and 1956. In May, 1957, this committee reported its findings. Meanwhile, the School Board authorized a pilot project at the Mound Street School.

With this completed project before it, on January 14, 1958, the Board approved certain recommendations of the Building Facilities and Equipment Committee as guidelines to be followed in undertaking the Building Modernization Program. Among other matters, the Board specified that the Secretary-Business Manager use Repair Division personnel in doing portions of the work which could not feasibly be done on a contract basis.

In implementing the modernization program, the Board provided:

1. That priorities in modernizing buildings be tied in with the interior painting program, plans for additions, future use of old buildings, recommendations of the Building Inspector's Department, and considerations of need.
2. That requirements be drawn for each building in this program, based on joint recommendations of the Educational Department and the Construction, Repair, Plant Operation, and Purchasing Divisions.
3. That, as far as possible, modernization plans be directed toward providing in old schools facilities and equipment equal to specifications enumerated in the report of "Specifications and Policies with Respect to School Building Facilities and Equipment."
4. That minimum standards of facilities and equipment in classrooms provide for some sixteen different types of structural and other improvements. These changes range from rewiring the facility to including equipment similar to that recommended for new construction. (A complete list of recommended modifications appears on Pp. 60-61 of the Five-Year Building Commission's 1960 Report.)

Basically, modernization projects involve five kinds of work activities -- building, electrical, heating, plumbing, and painting. The replacement of furniture is included in the "building" category.

(Modernizing schools requires more than the technical skills and manual labor involved in converting older classrooms into up-to-date ones that are (a) more adaptable to modern educational programs and practices, (b) safer, and (c) more attractive. Before building activities can be started, surveys of needs must be taken and plans laid in consultation with the principals concerned. Administrative arrangements must provide for the transportation of pupils who will be housed temporarily in other schools. Teacher assignments must be shifted, too. Supplies and equipment must be delivered to the places where the teachers and their classes will be located.

In some cases, social center activities must be discontinued while the school is being modernized.)

Seven years ago, 50 older buildings were recommended for modernization. These structures were listed in five priority groups, based on their condition and age. Schools which would be affected by replacement, urban renewal, and expressway developments were omitted. As of January 1, 1965, 23 schools have been completely modernized and three are in process. The total construction and equipment costs of the completed projects were over $5,800,000.

For the past several years, the Modernization Committee has proposed four school projects per year. If this rate is maintained, the remaining 24 schools will be completely modernized within six years. When this portion of the program has been carried out, only 24 other schools built before 1950 (the year the Eighty-first Street School was opened) will remain to be modernized.

Other Improvement Programs

The Board's plan for upgrading facilities in older school buildings, as adopted in 1957, has three other significant phases designed to accomplish uniformity of standards on a city-wide basis and to secure the advantages of quantity purchasing and long-range planning. These programs include: (1) the replacement of furniture; (2) Repair Division projects involving entire schools; and (3) "major projects" of internal improvements to older schools not affected by the regular modernization schedule. While the three phases are only summarized here, detailed information is available in the "Progress Report of Programs for Modernization of Older School Buildings, 1957-1965."

1. Furniture Replacement -- Since 1957, over 3,000 movable furniture items have been supplied to elementary classrooms in older buildings to provide all teachers with modern equipment. In all, 595 teachers' desks and chairs, 714 files, and 1,792 bookcases have been purchased as replacements at a cost of $116,000.

2. Repair Division Projects -- To improve building facilities, the Repair Division has budgeted annually for certain special programs in addition to normal building maintenance. These include:

a. Corkboard -- Installations of cork bulletin boards have been made to bring display space up to adequate standards in 27 elementary schools.

Approximate cost: $88,000

b. Adequate Lighting -- Installations to provide the required amount of foot candles of light have been completed in 18 elementary and secondary schools. Also, partial jobs were completed in a number of individual rooms throughout the system.

Approximate cost: $650,000

c. Acoustical Treatment -- Over and above the Building Modernization Program, acoustical treatment has been provided in problem areas of 47 elementary and secondary schools on a piecemeal basis. None of these buildings was completely acousticized.

Approximate cost: $168,000

d. Furniture Re-finishing -- Since 1957, the continuing program of furniture refinishing has been carried out in 68 elementary and secondary schools.

Approximate cost: $647,470

e. Fire Alarm and Stair Enclosure Installations -- This program provides for scheduling installations approved by the Building Inspector's Office. Fire alarm work in 108 schools has been completed, and stair enclosures have been provided in 62 schools.

Approximate cost: $705,465

f. Landscaping Work -- This program includes the replacement of overgrown and deteriorated shrubs, sodding and paving between sidewalks and curbs, planting of new trees and shrubbery, relocating and widening sidewalk approaches to school entrances, and some minor fence work at 53 schools.

Approximate cost: $115,000

g. Installation of Incinerators -- 42 schools

Approximate cost: $56,000

h. Installation of Window Guards -- 115 schools

Approximate cost: $91,680

i. Conversion of Available Space to Classroom Use -- 59 schools

Approximate cost: $440,000

j. Interior Painting Work -- 39 schools

Approximate cost: $909,830

k. Interior Washing -- 55 schools

Approximate cost: $439,455

l. Exterior Painting -- 146 schools

Approximate cost: $777,615

m. Remodeling Heat Controls -- 26 schools

Approximate cost: $325,045

TOTAL OF LISTED REPAIR DIVISION PROGRAMS -- $5,413,560

3. "Major Projects" of Internal Improvements -- Increasing demands for additional facilities for a growing school system have resulted in adoption of a formal procedure for the annual initiation of requests and for the investigation, estimating, and planning required to make proper budgetary provisions in the Construction and Repair Funds. This procedure was developed in 1961.

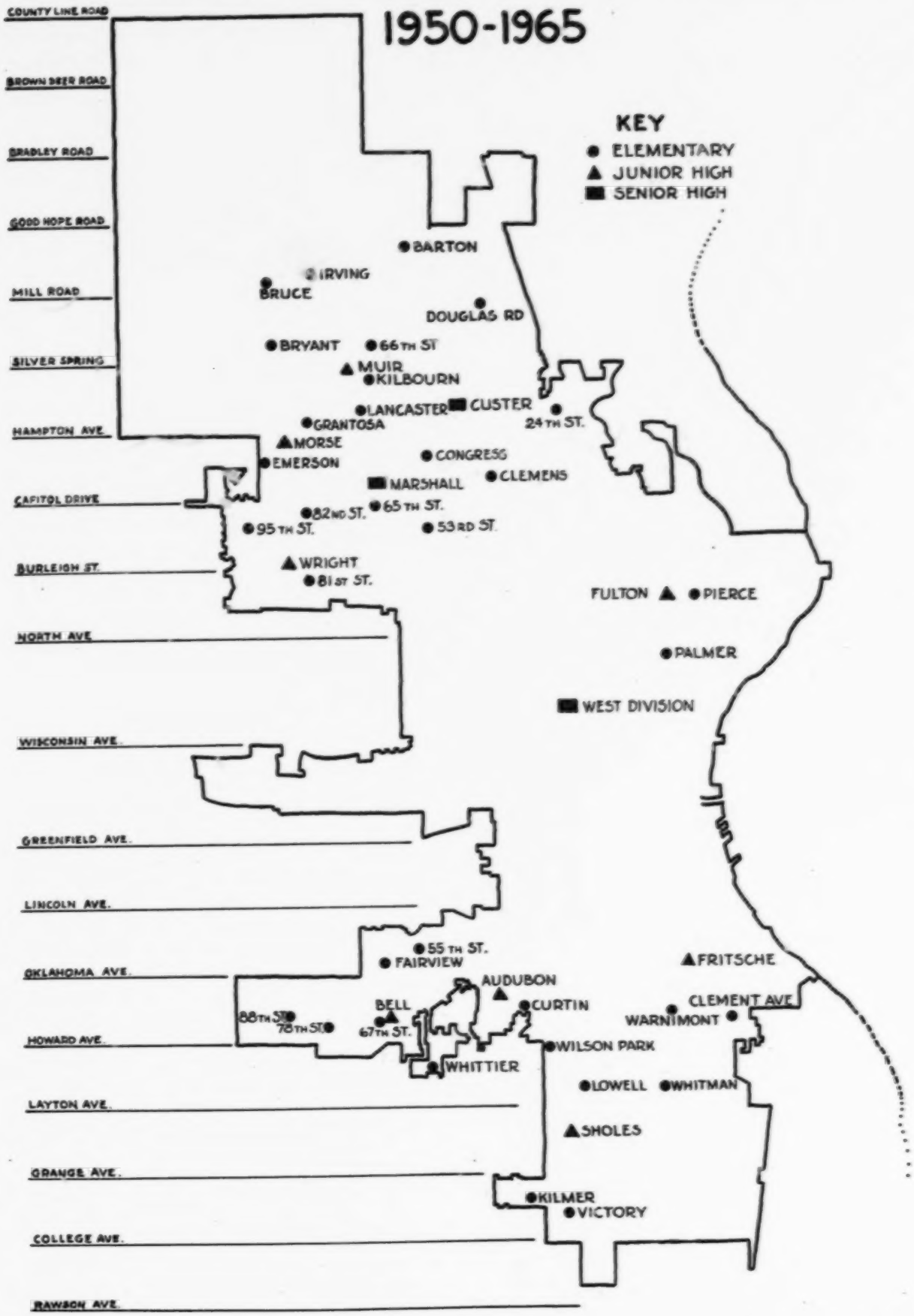
Several internal revisions of building facilities not affected by the regular modernization schedule are now being made each year, particularly in the secondary schools. Under this program, the Repair Division has been directly involved in the work on 15 "major projects" completed in the city's junior and senior high schools during the past three years.

Approximate cost: $44,410

CITY OF MILWAUKEE
AREA ADDED – 1950-1965

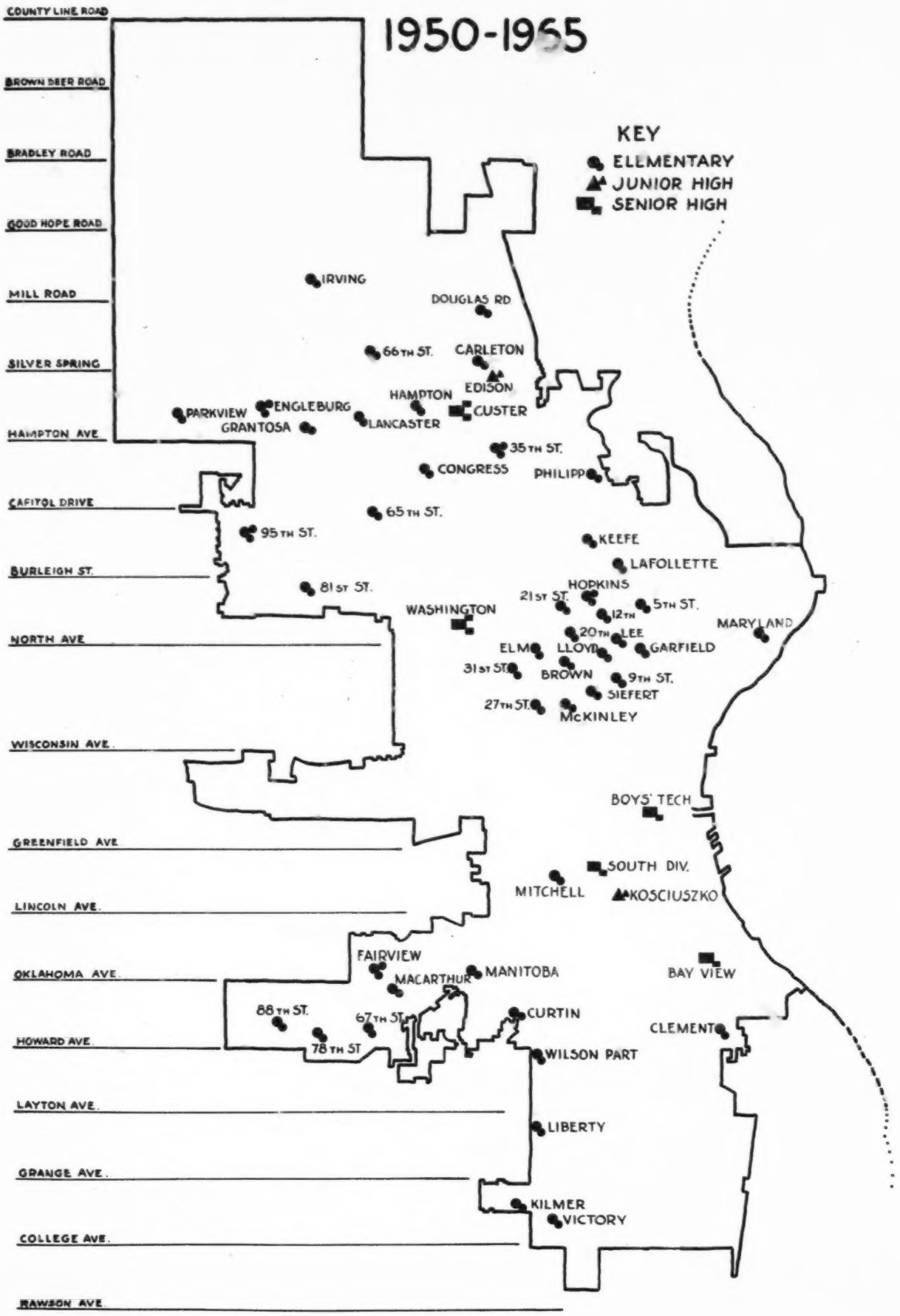
NEW SCHOOLS CONSTRUCTED

1950-1965



ADDITIONS TO EXISTING SCHOOLS COMPLETED

1950-1955



BUILDING MODERNIZATION COMPLETED

1958-1965